

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in light of Hillenbrand. Claim 2 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to now include the limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled. Thus, claim 1 and depending claim 3 are allowable. Please enter the allowance of claims 1 and 3.

Claim 4 has been rejected. Following the Examiners statement of reasons for allowance, claim 4 has been amended to include "threaded aperture extending into the ball from the ball outer surface". It is respectfully asserted that according to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, this makes claim 4 allowable as well. Please enter the allowance of claim 4.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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